

## Archbishop Hanna Quotes

1. We will remain in Jerusalem, defending our religious sites and endowments. We reject the policies of the occupation. We will not surrender. Our motto will always be: freedom and dignity for the Palestinian people. Our religious sites will remain ours. Jerusalem will remain ours," he said at the "First Global Conference on Israeli Apartheid in Istanbul a few weeks ago.

2. We belong to this land and we belong to this people who fights for freedom. We will always remain biased to the just Palestinian cause."

3. So when Archbishop Hanna was hospitalized on December 18 as a result of what was reported to be Israeli "poisoning," Palestinians were very concerned. A few days later, Hanna was found to be at a Jordanian hospital receiving urgent medical treatment for what was described, by Hanna himself, as "poisoning by chemical substance." Whatever that substance may have been, it was reportedly discharged from an Israeli army gas canister, lobbed at Hanna's Church in Jerusalem.

4. <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/01/01/who-archbishop-atallah-hanna-and-why-israel-hates-him>

5. We Christians also say Allahu Akbar. This is an expression of our understanding that the Creator is great. We don't want this phrase to be related to terrorism and crimes,

6. Everything Palestinian in Jerusalem is targeted by Israeli occupation, Hanna said last January during a meeting with a Doctors without Borders delegation. "The Islamic and Christian holy sites and endowments are targeted in order to change our city, hide its identity and marginalize our Arabic and Palestinian existence," the Archbishop lamented.

7. 2021 - Apart from politics, I say from Jerusalem during this holy season of Easter: Jerusalem is the City of Resurrection for Palestinians, our treasured home. No place in our faith is more prominent or sacred than the city that embraces the Holy Tomb, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher—the site of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Our Lord’s resurrection is a main pillar of our faith. We remember how our Lord carried His Cross and walked up to the Golgotha, where he was crucified and buried. Yet, he vanquished death and rose up from the dead on the third day.

8. 2021 - But peace is denied the people because there is no justice in the city. There is, instead, injustice and the targeting of Christian and Muslim Palestinians regarding our holy sites, our endowment properties, and our historic, deeply rooted presence in this holy place. We Palestinians think of Jerusalem as our capital. But we are treated as strangers in the holy city, the cradle of Christianity’s most important holy sites.

9. This is the feast that we celebrate. In our liturgy, we call it “the feast of all feasts, the season of all seasons.” On this glorious day, the most significant Christian celebration, we kneel before the empty tomb and hail our Lord who rose up from the dead.

10. Palestinians deserve freedom, deserve life. The vast majority are educated, have a high sense of belonging to our homeland, and have always been true defenders of our just cause, making major sacrifices to promote it. Our sacrifices will never go in vain, no matter how long it takes.

11. Our Easter message to Christians in our country and to our people in general is this: never lose hope regardless of the severity of hardships, conspiracies, suspicious plots and empty proposals aiming to liquidate our cause.

12. Inspired by the holy feast of resurrection, I tell Palestinians, "Fear not, never surrender, and refuse to be forced into frustration, desperation, and hopelessness. Keep up your morals high, your will strong, and love each other. Reject all divisions and be united in defending your cause, the cause of all free men and women in our world."

13. We reject the French offensive discourse against the Islamic religion, as we reject the insults that have been issued against the Islamic religion in more than one place in Europe, America or other places. We reject insulting Muslims in their sanctities, beliefs, faith and religious symbols.

14. Christians and Muslims are brothers in defense of their homelands, Palestine and Jerusalem, and hatred rhetoric will not succeed in harming our unity.

15. Normalization is a betrayal of the Palestinian people and Arab causes, and of all Arab countries and peoples, because Palestine is the cause of the entire nation, Muslims, Christians and free people around the world.

16. Normalization is a betrayal of the Palestinian people and Arab causes, and of all Arab countries and peoples, because Palestine is the cause of the entire nation, Muslims, Christians and free people around the world.

17. The phenomenon of normalization falls within the framework of the conspiracies against the Palestinian cause and the city of Jerusalem and its sanctities. These conspiracies will not pass and no party in the world has the right to ignore our existence as Palestinians, and to ignore our right to live in freedom and dignity in our homeland. Jerusalem is our capital, and refugees have all the right to return to their homeland.

18. These are Palestinian constants that cannot be waived, and no project or conspiracy targeting the Palestinian cause can pass because the Palestinians are there, steadfast, adhering to their rights of belonging to this holy land.

19. We believe that the issue of projects and conspiracies targeting the Palestinian cause target Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities and endowments, foremost of which is Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as Christian holy sites, and therefore we reject all manifestations of normalization.

20. We affirm that all conspiracies against the Palestinian cause will fail.

21. We reserve and reject the issue of normalization and the positions of the printmakers, and at the same time we want to maintain a good relationship with all Arab peoples, who consider the vast majority of them with Palestine and its people.

22. What is the danger of normalization for the sanctities?  
Archbishop Hanna: What the city of Jerusalem is going through cannot be described in words, as it is in grave danger, and the occupation is exploiting the flabby Arab situation and internal Palestinian divisions and is seeking to pass its projects there.

23. However, I think that the Palestinians are their tongue, saying: "Your skin is not rubbed except by your nail." The Palestinians will not raise the white flag, will not surrender, and will not accept passing the occupation projects in the city of

24. We are well aware of what is being plotted against us, but all these things will collapse with the unity of the people, their wisdom, their steadfastness and their belonging to this holy land.

25. We appeal to the Arab nation, Muslims and Christians

everywhere to prioritize Palestine and Jerusalem. We hope that the Arabs Muslims and Christians will unite in their defense of Jerusalem. This is the cause of every believer in justice and human rights.

26. "For those who use the Bible to support Israel need to differentiate between God promise and Balfour promise, because the occupation is the result of a promise given to the Israelis by Lord Balfour and not by God." Archbishop Theodosios

27. Muslims are able to build their homes anywhere in Jerusalem and that only under Israeli sovereignty had freedom of worship for all religions been assured in the city. How do you respond to that?

28. Archbishop Theodosios: The facts on the ground say exactly the opposite, more and more Muslims and Christians are having great difficulties in entering the city. We see thousands are denied entry to their holiest sites. The Israelis authorities are even preventing the Arab Jerusalemites from entering the Holy sepulcher and the Aqsa mosque on major religious feasts. It is very apparent that the Israelis want Jerusalem to themselves and they do not want to share it with others. It is a big pity that the city of peace, which must symbolizes brotherhood and love to be transformed into a symbol of hatred and division because of Israeli actions.

29. Let me be clear on this subject, there will be no Palestine without Jerusalem as its capital. It is ridiculous to imagine Palestine without Jerusalem, because it beats in the heart of every Palestinian. In addition to that, Israel tries to change the features of Jerusalem through its development projects like the light train, the malls or the parks. They are trying to make the Palestinians foreigners in their own city. According to international law, Jerusalem is still an occupied city, thus it has no right to change anything in it. Whatever

was the final agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the Palestinians should have the free right to enter their city without any restrictions, and also they must have the right to live in it, build their homes and reside in it without the interference of anyone. The Palestinians in Jerusalem are in their city and country not a stranger. The treatment of the Palestinian as a outsider is by itself a racist action.

30. First of all, I should stress on the fact that the Christian Palestinians were here since Jesus times, where in the Books of Acts in the bible it was mentioned that there were Arabs listening to the Apostles in Jerusalem. Christians Arabs had and still have a big effect in the development of the Arab societies in the Middle East. We are not visitors or strangers to Palestine. Our history is deeply rooted in this area of the world. On the other hand, our numbers are dwindling due to the occupation and the bitter reality it is causing. But we are not afraid that Christians will disappear from Palestine, because there will always be Christians in Palestine to continue the message of Jesus Christ.

31. The Orthodox Church as all churches in the Holy Land refuses to give excuses from the bible for the unjust treatment of the Palestinian people. I am very sorry to hear about some religious groups in the United States that support the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. Such support cannot be justified from a Christian point of view because Christianity is against any sort of occupation and the injustice in it all forms and rationalization.

32. These groups need to re-read their bible, because the bible calls us to stand with the marginalized and the oppressed and not with the oppressors. For those who use the bible to support Israel need to differentiate between Gods promise and Balfour promise (Balfour Declaration), because the occupation is the result of a promise given

to the Israelis by Lord Balfour and not by God. God is innocent from the unjust actions of the Israeli occupation of our land since '48 and until now.

33. First of all, I want to stress on the fact that the wall is illegal, even the highest court system in the world declared that it is illegal, thus our duty as humans have an obligation towards their brethrens to dismantle this racist wall. The purpose of this wall is simply to cut Palestinians from their neighbors, family and land. A proof of that is the inhuman checkpoints, where if a person who wants to visit his/her relative in Jerusalem, is not allowed to enter, and if by some miracle he got permission, he has to pass these awful checkpoints where he is treated in a very humiliating way. I do not think security reasons have to do anything with it, especially since 62% of the wall is done. It is just an excuse to take more land illegally and separate Palestinians from each other.

34. There are about 11,000 political prisoners in Israeli jails, a quarter of the Palestinian people at some point or another where in prison since 1967. This is a big number. It is sad that the international media does not bring it up to the light. These are people who fought for a just and right cause, and at the same time they are treated in the most inhuman ways a person can imagine. The duty of every free person in the world who believes in human rights, and who believes that all humans were born equal to stand beside them. Not mentioning the biggest prison in the world is the Gaza strip. There are a million and a half living in Gaza. We pray and ask every free person in the world to work for the release of the people in Gaza.

35. It is a very sad incident that we will never forget. The brutality of the Israeli forces is expectable. Whenever people try to show the dark side of the Israeli occupation and situation in Gaza, they try to

shut their voices down. Our condolences and thanks for the Turkish government and people who stood a very brave stand toward our people. The flotilla included several people from different nationalities and religions confirming that there are still people who believe in the values of justice and peace.

36. I say to all the Palestinian refugees they should still not give up their right of return. It is a right that could not be canceled by time. It is a human right because every Palestinian refugee should return to his/her home. Do not lose hope because our cause is a just one and the person who was wronged in a way or another should not be desperate, but we should still claim our rights where we hope that one day and it will be soon that every Palestinian could return to his/her home.

37. No power in the world can uproot the Palestinians from their holy land. Such blind extremism and hatred will only increase our ties with our holy city, which is our spiritual and national capital and an incubator for our most important holy sites.

38. Firstly, I'd like to confirm that I am the only Palestinian bishop in the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. A fellow bishop is serving in the city of Irbid in the north of Jordan; and there are also several Palestinian priests.

39. I take pride in belonging to this great religious institution that's over 2,000 years old.

40. My church has been protecting the Christian presence in the Holy Land and the sacred items related to the life of Christ and Christian Church history.

41. I am proud of my religion and nationality, I am proud to belong to my fatherland. I am a Palestinian, and I belong to this religious people who are fighting for the sake of their freedom and dignity to



implement their dreams and national rights.

42. I support Palestinians and share their cause and their issues. We the Palestinian Orthodox Christians are not detached from their hardships.

43. The Palestinian issue is a problem that concerns all of us, Christians and Muslims alike. It's a problem of every free intellectual individual aspiring for justice and freedom in this world.

44. We the Palestinian Christians suffer along with the rest of Palestinians from occupation and hardships of our economic situation. Muslims and Christians suffer equally, as there is no difference in suffering for any of us. We are all living in the same complicated circumstances, and overcoming the same difficulties.

45. As a church and as individuals we protect this people, and we hope a day will come when Palestinians get their freedom and dignity.

46. The Israel authorities treat the Palestinian people in a way we can never accept or approve, first and foremost because Israel treats Palestinians as foreigners, as if we were strangers in our land.

47. Palestinians have never been strangers either to Jerusalem or to the entire homeland. Israel is an occupation force which treats us as visitors or some temporary residents. But we are the native people of this land. We didn't come here, we have always been here. In contrast, Israel appeared out of the blue.

48. They are treating us as if we came here from elsewhere, as if we accidentally and recently strayed into this land. But we are the rightful owners of this land. We didn't intrude into Israel. Israel intruded into our lives in 1948, and in 1967 it occupied Eastern Jerusalem. We have been here long before Israel. By the time Israel

came here, our forefathers had been living here for many centuries.

49. This is why we cannot accept Israel treating us like strangers to our own homeland. I shall be honest and say it over again: both Christians and Muslims suffer the same from the Israeli authorities.

50. They don't ask if a person arriving from Beit Jala or Ramallah to Jerusalem is a Christian or a Muslim. They only ask one question, "Do you have a permit to enter Jerusalem or not?"

51. The pass allowing a Palestinian to enter Jerusalem is issued by Israel. No one can come through without one. In pursuing its racist policy towards the Palestinian people Israel disregards different confessions. We are all targeted just the same. It all depends on getting a pass, whether you're a Christian or a Muslim. We all are their targets.

52. On top of that, Israel took control of a lot of property of the Orthodox Christian Church and is interfering with the internal affairs of the Church. They put pressure on the Palestinian Christians in all sorts of ways trying to force them to leave. There is only one cause of suffering for both Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land.

53. We Christians also say Allahu Akbar. This is an expression of our understanding that the Creator is great. We don't want this phrase to be related to terrorism and crimes. Allahu Akbar is an expression of our faith.

54. For us, Allah is not an Islamic term. This is a word used in Arabic to indicate the Creator who's made the world we are living in. So when we say Allah in our prayers we mean the Creator of this world.

55. In our prayers and pleas, in our Orthodox Christian religious

ceremonies we use exactly this word. We say, glory be to Allah in all times. We say Allah a lot during our liturgy. It's erroneous to think that the word Allah is only used by Muslims.

56. We the Arab Christians say Allah in our Arabic language as a way to identify and address the Creator in our prayers.

57. We Christians believe that Jesus has already come. We have recently celebrated Christmas as a reminder that Jesus came into this world, that he was born in Bethlehem, and began his road here in the Holy Land for the sake of all mankind, and for the salvation of the world.

58. So as far as we are concerned, Jesus has already come.

59. Jews believe that he hasn't come yet, and await his coming. This is the main disagreement between Jews and us. We believe that Jesus has already come, whereas they don't.

60. Despite this fact, we are not at war with Jews. We do not express aggression against Jews or anyone else in the world, despite any differences in our beliefs.

61. We pray for those who disagree with us.

62. When Jesus came into this world he didn't tell us to hate, ignore, or be at war with one or the other; he didn't tell us to kill this one or that one. He gave us one very simple instruction: to love one another. When Jesus told us to love one another this love wasn't conditioned by what a person was like, or what he was doing. If we are indeed true Christians it is our debt to love all people, and to treat them with positivity, and with love.

63. When we see someone who's sinful, lost, and distant from Allah and from faith, someone who acts wrongly, then it is our duty to pray for him although he might be different from us and our

religion. When we have religious disagreements with people we pray that Allah would guide them the right way. Hatred, anger, and accusations of having a wrong faith are not a part of our ethics as Christians. This is the key disagreement and difference between the Jewish religion and ours. The Jewish religion that had existed before Christ is the religion of people who were awaiting Jesus' coming. Many Jews followed him, yet there were those who didn't believe in him, and rejected him.

64. Despite that, we see each person who disagrees with us on religion as our brother, our fellow human. Allah created all of us, he gave us life, therefore it is our duty to love each person, and to pray for those who are mistaken or are misunderstanding, so that Allah would guide them the right way.

65. We don't divide the Palestinian people based on who is Christian and who is Muslim, who is religious and who isn't, who is left or what party they are a member of. We don't divide the people based on convictions and religion.

66. For the resistance it doesn't matter whether they are Muslim or Christian.

67. Regardless of what their political views may be, all Palestinians actively support the idea that the Palestinian people should be able to exercise their rights and achieve their dream.

68. Yes, a number Christians have been killed since 1948 to this day. Some Christians have been driven away from their houses. Some Christian villages have been completely destroyed, and now there's not a single house or resident there, for example, Al Galil in the Golan Heights.

69. Many churches have been attacked in Jerusalem; there have

been attempts to seize their property and lands.

70. There are Christians in Israeli prisons – not as many as Muslims, but there are some. The Christian community is smaller in general, but we have our own martyrs who were killed and prisoners who spent years and years behind bars.

71. Christians suffer under the Israeli occupation just the same as Muslims – the entire Palestinian population suffers under it. They don't distinguish between us. Here's one of the many examples, connected to the Russian Orthodox Church.

72. The Holy Trinity Cathedral located in the western part of Jerusalem belonged to the Russian Orthodox Church, but after 1948 Israel used the situation in Russia to its advantage and seized some of the buildings around the Cathedral, using them as police quarters and a prison with torture practices.

73. When someone says “moskobiya”, referring to something connected to the Moscow Patriarchate, something holy and spiritual, the first thing that comes to the mind of a Palestinian living in Jerusalem is torture, police, interrogation and prison.

74. They were more than 20 people, and they started spitting first and then cursing. They shouted vulgar remarks at the Reverend Archbishop and insulted the Holy Cross and the Christian faith, Some Palestinian young men in the area provided protection for the Archbishop and prevented the fanatics from physically assaulting him

75. Read more at <https://english.palinfo.com/28554>

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78. It is our duty as Palestinian Christians and Muslims to remain united against Israel's greed, which targets all of us," he told Anadolu Agency as he mingled with the crowds gathered for prayers outside the walls of Islam's third-holiest mosque.

79. As everyone knows the Palestinian people are united against the occupation and racism

80. The churches of Jerusalem declared their solidarity with Al-Aqsa Mosque and we are here today to affirm our solidarity with our Muslim brothers.

81. Those who target Al-Aqsa Mosque are the same ones who target our Christian endowments that are seized and stolen illegally.

82. "We offer our condolences to our people in the occupied Golan and in Syria, and our friends and comrades to the martyr Medhat Al-Saleh, who fought for his land and homeland and was assassinated while his eyes were on his hometown in occupied Majdal Shams.. We were wounded in Palestine." It wounded Syria, just as Syria's bleeding is ours too.. It is a heinous crime in every sense of the word.. May God have mercy on our martyr, the martyr of Syria and Palestine, and the free people of our nation."

83. Firstly, I would like to clarify certain points: Palestine is for all citizens, every human being. We shouldn't deal with anyone on the basis of their religious beliefs. I will not accept that Palestine is a religious issue or let any religion monopolise it. I have difficulties with the State of Israel calling Jerusalem a Jewish city and reject groups who deny the rights of other citizens. Anyone claiming that the city is Jewish is not recognising Christian or Islamic rights and that Jerusalem has attachments for all.

84. During the expulsion of Palestinians in the Nakba in 1948, there

was no difference between Christians and Muslims, both churches and mosques were destroyed. The results of emigration from Palestine can be seen more clearly in Christians as they are fewer in numbers. The main reason is Israeli policy and the catastrophic economic effect on people's livelihoods. For the first time in history there's an ugly concrete wall between Bethlehem and Jerusalem separating us from each other instead of creating safety and harmony between us. This wall should be removed because it brings shame on the forehead of humanity. The Pope prayed there and many contemplated this. What he wanted to say was that there will be no justice, peace or stability until the wall comes down. There is a generation of youth in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Beit Jala who have never seen Jerusalem because the Israeli occupation doesn't give permits. So for the Palestinian Christian, when he is treated like a foreigner in his own country, he begins to think about leaving. There are many reasons for emigration from Palestine, but the primary cause is the Israeli occupation.

85. I believe that the most important thing we can do to keep and protect the Christians in the Middle East is to be united as Christians and Muslims against extremist groups and return to the unity and co-existence that have been here for centuries. There are people who plan to keep the Arabic Middle East as a place of conflict, using religion to destroy historic relations and national unity. As a result, people look for a safe place and leave.

86. After the American occupation of Iraq, one million Christians left. In the last four years, half a million Christians have left Syria; they didn't leave because of Assad, they left because of al-Nusra, ISIS and other groups, all who have relationships with the USA,

87. One of the Gulf States, a friend to the USA, has spent millions on arms for them, huge sums of money, used for destruction and war

which could be used for the reconstruction of Gaza.

88. I have more Muslim friends than Christians. Some want to create enmity between us, this is against our Arabic tradition and culture and we need to face this with all our power.

89. I have visited all over the world and haven't seen any country more beautiful than Palestine. I want to say to those thinking of leaving that you will not find anywhere more beautiful. To those living abroad, we hope that there will be a peaceful solution for you to come back and live in your country.

90. We are a Christian Palestinian movement, born out of the Kairos Document, which advocates for ending the Israeli occupation and achieving a just solution to the conflict.

91. The Kairos Document is the word of Christian Palestinians to the world about what is happening in Palestine.

92. "Our word is a cry of hope, with love, prayer and faith in God. We address it first of all to ourselves and then to all the churches and Christians in the world, asking them to stand against injustice and apartheid, urging them to work for a just peace."

93. We proclaim our word based on our Christian faith and our sense of Palestinian belonging – a word of faith, hope and love.

94. We declare that the military occupation of Palestinian land constitutes a sin against God and humanity. Any theology that legitimizes the occupation and justifies crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people lies far from Christian teachings.

95. We urge the international community to stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle against oppression, displacement, and apartheid.



96. We demand that all people, political leaders and decision-makers put pressure on Israel and take legal measures in order to oblige its government to end its oppression and disregard for international law.

97. We hold a clear position that non-violent resistance to this injustice is a right and duty for all Palestinians, including Christians.

98. We support Palestinian civil society organizations, international NGOs and religious institutions that call on individuals, companies and states to engage in boycotts, divestment and sanctions against the Israeli occupation.

99. "Everything that happens in our land, everyone who lives there, all the pains and hopes, all the injustice and all the efforts to stop this injustice, are part and parcel of the prayer of the Palestinian Church and the s

100. In Palestine, we are Palestinians who love our homeland and are dedicated to it with all our hearts, and no party in this world has the right to prevent us, as Palestinian Christians, from expressing our spiritual and national affiliation to it."

101. We are not afraid to express our affiliation, we are not associated with any political party, and we are not part of the existing conflicts, rivalries and divisions. Our affiliation is to Eastern Christianity, whose light has emerged from this Holy Land ... As for Palestine, we are Palestinians, this is how we were, and this is how we will remain, and we will not allow any party to harm our affiliation, the nobility of our presence and our history in this holy land.

102. we are not counting on the West, as this West abandoned Christianity a long time ago." He pointed out that there is

Christianity in the West, "but we cannot describe the West as Christian, and the policies of the West are among the main causes of the displacement of Christians, and there is no need to list the horrific crimes committed by America and other countries in the East against our peoples. Christians also paid the price for these unjust policies along with the rest of our Arab nation.

103. the West does not care about the Christian presence in our countries, but rather about its interests and agendas." He added, "We do not trust them and do not expect anything from them for the benefit of Christians and other citizens. We are not isolated from the national environment in which we live, as our pain and sorrows are the pains and sorrows of our nation, our East, and our people who are struggling for freedom.

104. We Do Not Recognize The So-Called Christian-Zionism. We call on journalists and media outlets to stop the use of this term because it has no place in the Christian Church and theology," He said, "Just because a group in America calls itself Christian and advocates for Zionism, does not mean they represent Christianity. It also does not mean we should adopt this false terminology in our writings and teachings.

105. We do not recognize this so-called Christian Zionism because Christianity is a religion that calls for love, peace, and for siding by the oppressed and the dispossessed wherever and whoever they are. However, Zionism is a completely different thing; it is a racist ideology and movement that has been the reason behind so many injustices and catastrophes inflicted on our Palestinian people.

106. We denounce and reject all attempts to link Christianity with Zionism; how can Christianity, a religion that calls for compassion and love, be combined with a racist ideology, responsible for all this suffering in the Holy Land and the region. How can this movement

claim to represent Christianity while it advocates for wars and destruction that did not spare anybody, including Christians.”

107. We can, for instance, refer to them as Zionist groups that allege being Christian, especially since their beliefs contradict the peaceful message of Christianity. These groups are harming Christianity; they can call themselves whatever they want; however, this doesn't mean we should adopt their false terminology and ideology.

108. December 24, 2019: Palestine Archbishop Atallah Hanna: Israel attempted to poison me. What happened could be an assassination attempt, or an attempt to keep me sick throughout life ... The repercussions of the toxic substance are dangerous, especially on the nervous system. Hanna was rushed to hospital after an Israeli gas canister was fired into his church in Jerusalem.

109. The city of Jerusalem is the city of the three Abrahamic religions...Christian and Muslim Palestinians living in Jerusalem suffer from the occupation, suffer from repression, tyranny and oppression

110. The occupation in Jerusalem is treating us as if we are guests and foreigners in our own city. This is the embodiment of apartheid policies and practices against our people in Jerusalem specifically and in Palestine more generally.

111. call upon all the churches of the world, in the west and east, to urgently defend Palestine, the children of Palestine, and the Palestinian cause. Let our message this Christmas be to free Palestine and the Palestinian people.

112. <https://youtu.be/aiJhSxhb44Q>

113. From the heart of Jerusalem, we send our greetings to all the friends of Jerusalem and to those who defend it and the Palestinian

cause on this International Jerusalem day. From the heart of our city, we greet you and we say to you and to all the free people in the world this cause is of concern to us all. Jerusalem is a responsibility on all of our shoulders as Christians and Muslims and it is our duty to defend it, to defend its history, its identity, heritage, sacrifices and endowments. We send you from Jerusalem a thousand greetings with much respect and appreciation for all those who defend our holy city. We will always fly the flag of Palestine emphasizing the need for a just solution for the Palestinian cause and calling for the freedom of Palestine and its people with Jerusalem as its capital

114. Saturday May 17th 2008

115. dear brothers and sisters when we speak about Palestine when we speak about the right of return when we speak about Jerusalem, we are not divided by sects

116. We Are One People we are one nation and we are one cause, therefore, my presence and the presence of sheik Tayseer with you here tonight

117. in this important event and affirmation and proof of the unity of the Palestinian people and its Muslims and Christians. what distinguishes the city of Jerusalem, our national spiritual capital is that you see in it churches and mosques, you hear the bells ringing and calls to prayer announcing that God is great. people go to their churches and mosques and they kneel and worship one single God and they asked him for patience and strengths and condolence for this oppressed people that longs for the day of freedom, independence and the restoration of its dignity. and therefore permit me first and before anything else to affirm that, when we speak of our national cause, when we speak about the right to return, we are one single sect whose name is the Palestinian Arab people, the Palestinian people which has not known any day

functionalism or sectarianism. before I came here, I went on a visit to the Village of Al-Birweh and I led prayers over the ruins of its church and mosque and we raised the Palestinian flag and we announced the people of Birweh and all the villages that were dispossessed of their people in 1948 must return and we will not accept any peace without the return of all Palestinians to their homeland and Homes. Dear all, what unites us is our nationalist Arab affiliation. our civilization is the Arab civilization, our language is the Arab language, our affiliation is Arab nationalism, our national affiliation removes all borders. there are no borders at all among us and our Arab affiliation, our sole nationalist roots it unites us everywhere and wherever we are. Dear friends, our religions do not divide us. As Palestinians, we are proud of Christianity as we are proud of Islam. we are proud of the Palestinian Christians as we are proud of the of the injured Al-Aqsa. we are proud of our land because it is the land of awareness. it is the land of the holy places, the land of our roots, it is the land we belong to, our origin and identity, this is Palestine. be proud of your belonging to Palestine. in all the world, they speak about Palestine when they speak of Jesus Christ, Jerusalem, Nazareth in Bethlehem. in all the world when they speak of Islam, they mention the blessed Al-Aqsa, the first direction of Prayer and the third holiest site in Islam. in all of the Christian and Muslim world they speak of the holy city of Jerusalem which is a spot of Heaven on Earth, it is a blessed land. it is a Holy land, it is a land that we are proud to be her protectors because we are among those who are struggling for her, for her holy places.

118. and for her just cause. dear friends, we have one common enemy and it is the Israeli occupation. this occupation which dispossessed and exiled people in 1948, it is the occupation that occupied Jerusalem in 1948 and in 1967. this occupation which undertook and even at this time has undertaken with a diabolical,

evil effort to liquidate the Palestinian cause. many of the conferences and meetings that took place and that they say that they are for peace, these are not for peace they are for liquidating the Palestinian cause. they say they meet for peace and while there are millions of Palestinians to their homes and lands and even from visiting. there are Palestinians carrying International passports which allow them to visit and go and travel anywhere in the world. except to their homeland in Palestine.

119. millions of Palestinians who aspired one day to return to their homes and lands . we meet on the commemoration of the Nakba. that remembrance of their 60th year of the Nakba,. the Nakba, dear friends, is not only a historical event Palestinians. and we see more than 500 Palestinian villages buried underground. and we see that Jerusalem is under siege and Gaza is under seige and the West Bank is under siege,the bishop when he prays says peace be unto you. the word peace is mentioned in the Bible, the word peace is one of the names of God. where is the peace they are speaking about? peace would be built on justice. peace would be built on removing oppression from the oppressed , peace would be built on removing the occupation, racism and oppression. they meet here for peace and the people in Gaza are besieged under threat and they're dying and they meet here for peace but what they really want is our surrender and not peace.dear friends, on this day we must emphasize that that the right to return is not any less holy than our sacred rights in Jerusalem. our right to return is an inalienable right that is neither negotiable nor open for discussion. we cannot accept any deal that does include the return of all Palestinians to historic Palestine from the river to the Sea. that is Palestine. but the occupation has failed, the occupation has failed and it

120. it was unable to liquidate the Palestinian cause. That best proof

of this is you, you are prevented from entering Palestine, you are prevented from visiting Palestine, you are prevented from returning to Palestine, but Palestine is in your heart they have been unable to break your love for Palestine. your connection and ties to Palestine. and on this occasion, we salute all the Palestinian refugees and all the Palestinian camps. every Palestinian inside and outside sorry Palestine and inside Palestine because those inside and outside are one indivisible people